



WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

## County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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May 5, 2011

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. T. Fujioka", is written over the printed name and title.

**MOTION TO INSTRUCT THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO EXPRESS THE COUNTY'S SUPPORT FOR SB 397 (YEE); AND DIRECT THE SACRAMENTO ADVOCATES TO ACTIVELY PROMOTE ITS PASSAGE INTO LAW (ITEM NO. 5, AGENDA OF MAY 10, 2011)**

Item No. 5 on the May 10, 2011 Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas instructing the Chief Executive Officer to express the County's support for SB 397 (Yee); and direct the Sacramento advocates to actively promote its passage into law.

SB 397, as amended on April 27, 2011, would:

- Authorize counties to develop and use an electronic voter registration system for the electronic submission of an affidavit of voter registration from a person who is qualified to register to vote, who has a valid California driver's license or state identification card, and who resides in that county.
- Authorize a person who is qualified to register to vote and who has a valid California driver's license or state identification card to submit an affidavit of voter registration electronically on the Internet website of the county in which the person resides.
- Direct that the provisions of this bill will remain in effect only until the Secretary of State (SOS) certifies that the state has a statewide voter registration database

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that complies with the requirements of the Federal Help America Vote Act of 2002.

- Require the SOS, upon receiving notice from a county elections official of receipt of an electronic affidavit, to obtain an electronic copy of the voter's electronic signature from the State Department of Motor Vehicles and provide the electronic signature to the county.

The Registrar Recorder/County Clerk (RRCC) indicates that SB 397 would provide greater access to voter registration to all citizens in Los Angeles County in accordance with the County's goal of service excellence. This legislation would also increase the accuracy, efficiency and cost of maintaining voter registration records.

In addition, RRCC indicates that despite the unprecedented levels of voter registration in 2008, a significant number of eligible citizens remain unregistered. Mobility and migration patterns across the nation further enhance the need to ensure that voter registration is accessible and that a more efficient and accurate process of updating and maintaining records is employed.

SB 397 would also allow for potentially significant cost savings related to the processing of voter registration forms, in addition to savings from the reduced use of paper forms. Several states have adopted online voter registration with great success and relative ease. For example, the State of Washington estimates savings of \$176,000 in the first year of implementing online voter registration and reduction in the per transaction cost from \$2.00 to \$0.50 for those applications submitted online. Similarly, Maricopa County in Arizona documented savings of over \$1 million in the five years they have offered online voter registration.

According to RRCC, California has fallen behind, and will fall even further behind, if modernization efforts such as online voter registration are held off until the implementation of the Secretary of State's statewide voter registration database, which is now estimated for implementation in 2015. Recognizing the challenges associated with coordinating between state agencies and local elections administrators, other states have modeled the ability to overcome those obstacles and have shown that the benefits of online voter registration warrant the effort.

SB 397 is sponsored by California Common Cause and supported by the California Association of Clerk and Elections Officials, the University of California Student Association and Rock the Vote. There is no opposition on file. SB 397 passed the Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee on May 3, 2011, and is currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Each Supervisor  
May 5, 2011  
Page 3

**Because there is no existing Board policy for the use of an electronic voter registration system for the submission of an affidavit of voter registration, support for SB 397 is a matter for Board determination.**

WTF:RA  
MR:OR:RM:sb

c:     Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
         County Counsel  
         Registrar Recorder/County Clerk